

# RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS PANTHER PRIDE NEWSLETTER

DR. DONNA MATTHEWS, SUPERINTENDENT

## RCPS FULLY ACCREDITED!

RCPS earns highest state rating 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row!

State Superintendent, Dr. Steven Staples, in a news release on September 14, 2016, announced state accreditation and federal accountability determinations for schools in the Commonwealth. Rappahannock County Public Schools was among 53 of the 132 divisions in the state that received FULL accreditation. Last year there were 36 divisions in the state that received full accreditation, and 2016-17 marked the third straight year that RCPS has received such a distinction.

Hard work, data-driven lesson planning, and curriculum pacing have been the focus of the division as it worked to overcome the 2012-13 RCES rating, “Accredited with Warning in Math.” Scores for the division have drastically improved, especially in the area of math. Parents, students, teachers and administrators have all worked together to bridge the gaps in student understanding and build cohesive plans that support hands-on and collaborative learning.

Federal accountability designations are also based on achievement on SOL tests, with the lowest performing Title I schools identified as either Priority or Focus. RCES is a Title I school and is proud to be a high achieving school. Even though RCPS has no Priority or Focus schools, staff are still working hard to close gaps in reading for our minority and special needs populations. We salute the hard work of our staff and students as we continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

## GIFTED EDUCATION

The Mountain Vista Governor’s School Foundation will host its annual Chili Cook-Off, Trivia Contest, and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 1, from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM in the Fauquier High School Cafeteria. Admission is \$15 per person or \$100 for a table of eight. Monies raised by the Foundation help reduce the cost of the governor’s school programs to our division through funding bus trips, professional development for MVGS teachers, textbooks, materials, and club activities for students. The event is a wonderful evening, filled with laughter, great food, and great fun, all while supporting a good cause. If you are interested in attending, or if you would like to register a team of 8 for the trivia contest, please contact Shannon Grimsley at 540-227-0023.

Rappahannock County Elementary School			
			Benchmark for Accreditation
English	Current Year	77	YES
	3 year Average	75	
Math	Current Year	86	YES
	3 year Average	80	
History	Current Year	82	YES
	3 year Average	82	
Science	Current Year	98	YES
	3 year Average	81	

Rappahannock County High School			
			Benchmark for Accreditation
English	Current Year	82	YES
	3 year Average	80	
Math	Current Year	91	YES
	3 year Average	86	
History	Current Year	85	YES
	3 year Average	84	
Science	Current Year	92	YES
	3 year Average	90	
Graduation Index	Current Year	96	YES
	3 year Average	97	



## RCBS PRIDE KICKOFF EVENT

### RCBS Students Express Pride for their School

On Friday September 2, RCBS kicked off another year of PRIDE. An acronym for Positive Relationships Inspire a Drive for Excellence, the PRIDE clubs ensure that EVERY student is involved in a teacher sponsored club which meets during the school day throughout the year. Once all students selected their clubs, students and teachers joined together in the stadium with the new club members meeting each other for the first time. Clubs then competed for prizes with a variety of team building exercises. This year's exercises included clubs participating in variations of the game twister, forming a human roller coaster, and then culminated with all students and staff joining hands to form a giant human chain around the track in Panther Stadium, symbolizing the unity of the student body, teachers, and administration staff at RCBS. The day ended with students forming up by class and then being led by Principal Tupper in several roaring rounds of "We Are Rappahannock!" showing their Panther PRIDE and setting the tone for another successful year.



*RCBS students and staff create a human chain in unity*



*Students and staff creating the human rollercoaster to celebrate PRIDE*

### SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY

Virginia Code requires the establishment of an assessment team for evaluation and intervention with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. RCPS reviewed its processes during the 2015-2016 school year, establishing a division Threat Assessment Team and updating its threat management protocols to reflect the model policies, procedures, and guidelines from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Standardized procedures are in place to address behavior concerns, whether spoken, written, or gestured, that are perceived as threats. All school division employees and students are trained and required to report threats. Additionally, the threat assessment process requires follow-up with parents and recommendations for school-based and professional intervention to ensure that appropriate supports are put in place for all parties involved. The Threat Assessment Process can be found on the school division website under the parent tab for required notifications.

For more information or questions regarding the Threat Assessment Process, please contact Carol Johnson at [cjohnson@rappahannockschoos.us](mailto:cjohnson@rappahannockschoos.us) or 540-227-0023.



## HABITAT EXPLORERS

### A Kid Pan Alley Residency Experience

First and second grade students at RCES are excited to be participating in a residency program with Kid Pan Alley. This week the second grade students attended a field trip to Shenandoah National Park to kick off the program. The students observed and investigated various habitats found at Big Meadows. They identified animals' basic needs, such as food, water, shelter, and space. Students explored habitats to determine the types of organisms found in each ecosystem and how these organisms are affected by their environment. Next week students will begin writing and rehearsing songs about what they learned for the Kid Pan Alley concert scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM at RCES. We look forward to listening to our talented students perform about their experience at the beautiful Shenandoah National Park.



\*\*\*The *Commit to be Fit Challenge* sign-ups will begin soon. Come to the RCHS Fall Festival on September 24<sup>th</sup> to learn more, sign up, and enter to win some great prizes! Registration is open to all Rappahannock County community members, parents, and staff, ages 18 and older. Please join us on our journey to become healthier individuals. For questions about the program requirements, or to sign-up for the FREE program, please contact Shannon Grimsley, [sgrimsley@rappahannockschoools.us](mailto:sgrimsley@rappahannockschoools.us), Jackie Tederick [jtederick@rappahannockschoools.us](mailto:jtederick@rappahannockschoools.us), or Stacey Whitt, [sw hitt@rappahannockschoools.us](mailto:sw hitt@rappahannockschoools.us).



## SUCCESSFUL FAFSA WORKSHOP

On Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, RCHS Guidance Counselor, Michelle Papa, in conjunction with Headwaters Next Step Coordinator, Kat Habib, hosted the annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshop for RCHS parents of college-bound students. Featuring guest speaker, Dr. Karen Bucher, the Director of Financial Aid from Shenandoah University, the presentation was designed to educate parents about the intricacies of the financial aid process. Parents were given an overview of the different aid programs available from the federal government. Information was also shared about the local Rappahannock scholarship programs, typically awarding \$100,000 or more to local students. Parents were notified that the date to begin the application for FAFSA is now Oct. 1, 2016 instead of February, giving more time for families to complete the stages of the application. Over 35 parents attended the event, and Ms. Papa and Ms. Habib offered their assistance to students and parents through the tedious transition to college. If you have questions about navigating the FAFSA process, please contact our guidance office at 540-227-0745 or visit the guidance web page:

<https://sites.google.com/a/rappahannockschoools.us/counseling-guidance-department/>



# TASTE OF RAPPAHANNOCK SUCCESS

## RCPS Volunteer Support

Thanks to all who helped make the Taste of Rappahannock a great success!

**Parking Crew:** Jason Guira, Mike Sheffield, Sophia Hernandez, Taylor Callahan, Abigail Berry, Jacob Sheffield, Jackson Norris, Taven Murrah, Serentiy Cortez, Macy Montgomery, Ninon Kirchman, Skye Kirchman, Cydney Chambers, Caragh Heverly

**HS Faculty:** Mike Tupper, Jimmy Swindler, Dani Pond, Alex Coffroth, Karen Sanborn, James Sharpe, Dave Naser, Scott Schlosser, Rich Hogan, Kurt Streu

**ES Faculty:** Dawn Phillips, Kelly Estes, Katherine Todd, Layne Vickers, Sarah Moore, Jennifer Deal, Elaine McCabe, Vickie Miller, Matthew Hummill, Kathryn Gangel

**ES Students:** Maeve Ciuba

**HS NHS Students:** Josh Racer, A.J. Palmer, Julia Estes, Mahlet Yirgu, Brooke Athelli, Connor Culbertson, Ellie Young, Catherine Deane, Tatyana Yates, Drake Lynn

**Other HS Students:** Nick Strosnider

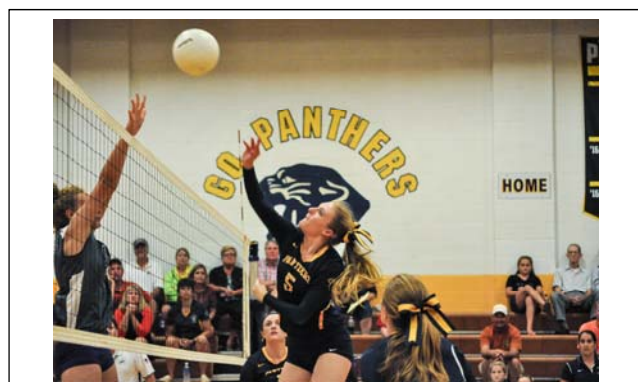
**Culinary Students:** Courtney Dodson, J.J. Strobel, Ryan Grigsby, Timmy Dowd, Courtney Higgins, Gabrielle Kelly, Ian Moore, Deana Abdullah, Jonathan Jenkins, Ethan Williams, Cyrus Heggan, Michael Czekaj, Karley Wharton, Morgan Flanagan, Helaina Posey, Jeffrey Grove, Parker Critzer, Kaitlyn Haskins

**School Board Office Volunteers:** Dr. Donna Matthews, Robin Bolt, Amy Rogers, Stacey Whitt, Shannon Grimsley



## Upcoming Events and Announcements

- September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Kid Pan Alley concert at 7:00 PM at RCES
- September 24<sup>th</sup>: Fall Festival at RCHS
- September 29<sup>th</sup>: Fall pictures at RCES
- October 1<sup>st</sup>: MVGS Chili Cook-off & Trivia at Fauquier HS
- October 4<sup>th</sup>: Effects of Heroin Documentary RCHS 6-8 PM
- October 6<sup>th</sup>: Parent Teacher Conferences



Senior Ellie Young delivers a hit to contribute to Varsity's 3-0 win over Strasburg on September 13<sup>th</sup>!

### RCPS Vision

#### Statement:

*To empower every student to reach his or her full potential.*

\*\*\* Come out to the school board meeting at 6:00 PM on October 11<sup>th</sup> at RCHS. We will have public comment on the new RCPS Comprehensive Plan at 6:30 PM. The Comprehensive Plan helps define the division and student focus for the next six years. Thank you to all who participated in the writing of this document!

For upcoming athletic events visit the RCPS Sports Page: <http://rappahannockcountyhs.schoolteams.com/>